



News for Immediate Release
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DWR Announces 2005 Dry Year Water Purchase Program

SACRAMENTO – The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is initiating a 2005 Dry Year Water Purchase Program (Program) to help public water agencies and other entities throughout California supplement their water supplies if 2005 is dry. While it is too soon to predict 2005 hydrology, some agencies have already expressed interest in a dry year water purchase program due to the ongoing dry conditions in 2004. The focus of the 2005 Program will be to secure options to purchase water, if these dry conditions persist.

The Program will allow purchasing entities that enter the Program in the fall of 2004, to request DWR to obtain options for water. The Program is designed to reduce the possibility of adverse economic impacts and hardship associated with water shortages, and is open to all California water entities.

Interested participants (buyers and sellers) may contact Teresa Geimer at Department of Water Resources, State Water Project Analysis Office, P.O. Box 942836, Sacramento, California 94236-0001, telephone number (916) 653-4547, email address tgeimer@water.ca.gov; or Ted Thomas at Department of Water Resources, Office of Water Education, P.O. Box 942836, Sacramento, California 94236-0001, telephone number (916) 653-9712, email address tthomas@water.ca.gov.

The following principles have been developed for better cooperation among DWR, the Bureau of Reclamation, and local agencies in regions able to make dry-year water supplies available:

1. DWR recognizes the importance of local leadership in making decisions to better manage the State's water resources. Accordingly, DWR will work cooperatively with local water associations, its member agencies, and other leaders in the Sacramento Valley and other regions to assist local interests in the management of their resources in a manner that fully meets local objectives.
2. DWR will consider the interests of all parts of the State, including those areas needing additional supplies and those that can make supplies available. DWR will

coordinate the activities of the Program with other local, State, and federal actions to purchase water in 2005.

3. DWR, water sellers, and water buyers will respect the right of individual local water districts to determine the best way to make water available for local, regional and statewide use. Local agencies will be responsible for complying with all applicable laws, including local ordinances, and in seeking necessary approvals from DWR, the Bureau of Reclamation, the State Water Resources Control Board, and other relevant government entities.
4. Water management strategies will comply with State law and prevent injury to other legal users of water, prevent unreasonable effects to fish or wildlife, and prevent unreasonable economic impacts to the overall economy of the county from which the water is transferred.
5. Actions to develop water supplies will undergo appropriate environmental review and should be designed to not interfere with ongoing environmental protection and restoration programs or cause significant impact to fish and wildlife.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

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